

UMOJA DANCE COMPANY



Saturday

JUNE 24, 2023

Memorial Auditorium
Montclair State University
Normal Ave. and Valley Road, Montclair, NJ 07043

Congratulations

*Karen Love
&
Umoja Dance Company*

30 years of excellence!
Thank you for sharing your
gifts, talents and pouring
into so many community
stakeholders! We
anticipate continued
greatness.

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- Learn new languages through ancient music instruments of Afro Brazilian culture
- Celebrate historical figures and energies through West African and Afro Brazilian culture

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youth/young adults with special abilities.**

30th Anniversary Celebration

"Legacy"



June 24, 2023
Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ

On behalf of Umoja Dance Company and the Anniversary Planning Committee

We Thank You

We are honored that you have continued to support our efforts for the past thirty years.
Thank you for your love, patience, and respect as we continue our journey.

Namaste

"The divine in me honors the divine in you"



Umoja Dance Company

Founder/Artistic Director: Karen L. Love

Assistant Artistic Director: Lisa Nailah Morris

Company Manager: Christine Smith

Studio Manager: Kai Smith

Lighting Designer: Mandy Ringger

Stage Manager: Saul Ulerio

Musical Director: Stephan Litzsey

Rehearsal Assistants:

Kamille King, Tiara Knox, Breana Lafortune

Carla Nisbett, Chris Odoms, Dondrea Taylor-Stewart, Kcydiima Zahir

Costumes: Brenda Lou

Dancers

Cori Barnes, Denise Brown, Jana Burton, Titilayo Derricotte, Kamille King, Tiara Knox, Breana Lafortune, Carla Nisbett, Chris Odoms, Taniyyah Payne, Jailyn Phillips-Wiley, Christine Placide, Najla Sims, Dondrea-Taylor Stewart, Kcydiima Zahir, Kcykiiyu Zahir

Drummers

Jana Burton, Stephan Litzsey, Kiinar Zahir, K'Zurii Zahir

Alumni

Imani Jones-Ratcliffe, Jakatora Tjoutuku

Usaama Dance Company

Founder/Artistic Director: Karen Love

Assistant Directors: Titilayo Derricotte and Kamille King

Dancers

Lakota Boyd, Laila Brown, Tamaya Brown, Gianni Closeil, Massada Crews, Raidah Karriem, Laila Garrett, SaHura Hester, Brendan Igoe, Sohaila Johnson, Lyssia Makaya, Emike Okhuofu, Xharia Rivers, Lyric Wiggins

Umoja Dance Studio Youth African Dance Class:

Zion Briddle-Fredricks, Eva Essel, Morgan Graham, Brendann Igoe, Phoenix Moore, Luisa Ohemeng, Averi Reid, Ayele Smith, Khai'im Smith

Guest Artists

Will Ervin, Female Drum Class

Honorees

Porché Hardy, Kandice N. Point-Du-Jour, Susan Gaddy Pope, Alysia Souder, Hakika Wise

Anniversary Planning Committee

Sanaz Hojreh, Karen Love, Lisa Nailah Morris, Tiara Knox, Christine Smith, Kai Smith, Philip S. Thomas, Marie Thompson, Jakatora Tjoutuku, Nikkia Tyrie

Special Thanks: Jana Burton, MSU Department of Theater and Dance, Beth McPherson, Randy Mugelston, Gene Lotito, Anniversary Planning committee, Yvonne Onque, Umoja and Usaama Dance Company members, Katrina Alexander, Brenda Lou, Marcella Audiffred, Christian VonHoward, Amir Kinsler, technical crew, custodial staff, security staff, volunteers, vendors, and journal advertisers.

To those not acknowledged please forgive my memory lapse. Charge it to my head and not my heart.

With Sincere Gratitude - Karen Love



UMOJA DANCE COMPANY

Umoja Dance Company was founded in 1993 by Karen Love during her senior year as a BFA Dance Major at Montclair State University. Umoja serves as a vehicle to educate, preserve and present dance as a communal and spiritual expression of life. Umoja creates a nurturing environment that encourages cross-cultural exchange and celebrates the versatility of the body and mind. Umoja, the Kiswahili word for "Unity," continues to adapt aspects of African culture, aesthetics and contemporary modern dance. Umoja reflects the evolution of uniting the mind, body and spirit.

Umoja self-produced concerts at Montclair State University from 1993 -1998 which led to numerous performances throughout the country. Performance highlights include: The International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference (IABD), held at Duke University, Montclair State University Great Events Performance Series, Lincoln Center Out of Doors festival, NBC Today Black History Month Special, NJPAC Kwanzaa Festivals, Prudential Black Leadership Forum, and SOPAC Triple Threat Showcase. UMOJA was selected to perform at Aaron Davis Hall as a part of the New Vision/New Voices Choreography Showcase for People of Color, curated by Gus Solomons, Jr.

October, 2006 Love created Wofabe African Dance & Drum Festival! The one to three day festival was presented for ten years and was the 1st and only African dance & drum festival in the state of New Jersey. The festival consisted of African dance and drum classes, panel discussions, free children classes, and an evening dance concert. The festival was presented at Newark Arts High School, Science Park High School, Central High School, Newark Symphony Hall and NJPAC. Wofabe celebrated their 10th anniversary at NJPAC in 2016.

Umoja had the honor of being commissioned by two outstanding New Jersey organizations: The Westfield Symphony Orchestra and the NJ Chamber Music Society. Westfield's conductor David Wroe selected Love to choreograph a new piece to Darius Milhaud's "Le Creation du Monde." The piece was an eclectic blend of West African and modern dance that premiered at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway, NJ. The NJ Chamber Music Society commissioned Love's choreography for two West African tales, Anansi the Spider and the Rabbit at the Water Hole.

Choreography showcases include: Dance Theater Workshop FRESHTRACKS, Symphony Space Dance Sampler, Mulberry Street Theatre: Newsteps, St. Mark's Danspace: Food For Thought, P.S. 122: New Stuff, Fieldday at The Ubu Repertory Theatre and Joyce Soho as well as the New Generation in Dance SUNY Purchase.

Community outreach include: Newark Symphony Hall, Essex County College-Mary Burch Theater, Luna Stage, Rutgers University, Union County College, Centenary College, William Paterson University, The Vivian Gaunt Scholarship Fund, The Links, Inc, Capezio Dance Foundation, Merck & Co, Hazel Ave. School, Hartshorn School, Mondelez International, Clifton Library, Montclair Public Library, Newark Museum, and Ethicon Corporation, Jack and Jill, Montclair African-American Heritage Day Parade, The Baird Community Center, The 100 Black Men New Years' Eve Celebration and The Montclair Arts Awards Ceremony.

COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS

UMOJA



1993

- Umoja Dance Company created by Karen Love during her senior year as a BFA Dance Major at Montclair State University.

1995

- Karen Love creates Usaama Dance Company
- New Jersey State Council on the Arts Choreography Fellowship Grant
- PS 122: NewStuff / Curator: Clarinda Mac Low, NY
- Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church: Food For Thought Series/ Curator: Melissa Wynn, NY

1996

- Choreography Commission: Baltimore Dance Theater
- A New Generation of Dance Choreography Showcase @ SUNY Purchase, NY

1997

- Residency: The Yard: Martha's Vineyard
- Residency: Northern Illinois University Dance Department

1998

- New Jersey Performing Arts Center: Victoria Theatre /Kwanzaa Festival
- Choreography Commission: Dance Theatre Workshop: FreshTracks, NY
- International Association of Blacks in Dance Professional Showcase: Duke University, NC

1999

- Umoja Dance Company receives Non Profit 501© (3) status
- Choreography Commission: Baltimore Dance Theater
- New Jersey Performing Arts Center: Victoria Theatre /Kwanzaa Festival
- Aaron Davis Hall/Out of Time Series: Curator :Gus Solomons, Jr., Featuring Carmen de Lavallade and Dudley Williams, NY

2000

- Karen Love Receives MFA Dance NYU Tisch School of the Arts
- Choreography Commission: Northern Illinois University Dance Company
- Karen Love Visiting Artist Associate Professor Kent State University

2001

- Choreography Commission: Westfield Symphony Orchestra
- Choreography Commission: New Jersey Chamber Music Society
- Symphony Space: Dance Sampler: Curator: Kay Cummings, NY

2002

- Karen Love begins work at Hillside High School
- Choreography Commission: Bates Dance Festival

2004

- 10th Anniversary Gala: Montclair State University
- Artist in Residency: University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival

2005

- Karen Love receives certification Pilates Mat
- NJSCA Folks Arts Fellowship Guinea Dance

2006

- Wofabe African Dance & Drum Festival created: Karen Love, Christine Smith, Philip S. Thomas

2007

- Karen Love receives certification in Yoga: Vinyasa, Children, Pre-natal

2012

- Umoja Dance Studio Opens in Vauxhall, New Jersey

2013

- Umoja Dance Studio Summer Camp Begins
- Centenary College Dance Festival

2014

- Essex County Metrofest Dance Festival
- Rutgers University Dept. of African American & African Studies

2015

- NJPAC Dance in your Community FREE Dance Class
- NJPAC Dancemakers on Diversity Panel Discussion
- Newark Museum Kwanzaa Celebration
- Montclair Library Kwanzaa Celebration

2016

- SOPAC Triple Threat Dance Showcase
- Wofabe 10th Anniversary Celebration
- Montclair Library Kwanzaa Celebration

2017

- SOPAC Triple Threat Dance Showcase

2019

- Hartshorn, Watchung School and various other school programs
- Liquid Church Run for Rwanda

2020-2021

- NJPAC Kwanzaa Festival
- KIPP Academy
- DANCENJ Presentation

2022

- NJPAC and Prudential Black Leadership Forum
- NJPAC Kwanzaa Festival
- COMCAST Juneteeth Celebration
- Montclair Public Library
- NOVO Nordisk
- Liquid Church Run for Rwanda

2023

- Prepare for 30th Anniversary
- Karen Love receives NJSCA Artist Fellowship Grant
- Pingry School
- NJPAC Professional Development for Newark Board of Education

Program

Master of Ceremonies: Kitab Rollins

Echoes

Choreography: Karen L. Love

Music: Bobby McFerrin

Performed by: Titilayo Derricotte, Kamille King, Tiara Knox, Karen Love

Echoes was the first modern dance choreographed by Karen for Umoja in 1993

Evolve

Choreography: Titilayo Derricotte & Kamille King

Music: Chilled Pig

Performed by: Usaama Dance Company Teens

In Between the space

Choreography: Karen L. Love

Music: Max Richter, RyX, Olafur Arnalds, Who Made Who,
Celeste, Daniel Pemberton, Ludwig Goransson, Baba Maal

Performed by: Denise Brown, Chris Odoms, Taniyyah Payne, Dondrea Taylor-Stewart, Jailyn Phillips-Wiley

A work in progress that examines the way we grieve.

Our angels are my inspiration - Gloria Love, Polly Lewis, Diane Burton, Sammie Mae Smith, Chris Nisbett

Another Sunrise

Choreographed and performed by Laila Garrett

Music: Berlioz

From The Ash

Choreography: Karen L. Love

Music: Philip Hamilton

Performed by: Cori Barnes, Denise Brown, Titilayo Derricotte, Tiara Knox, Chris Odoms,
Taniyyah Payne, Jailyn Phillips-Wiley, Najla Sims, Dondrea Taylor-Stewart

Synergy

Choreography: Titilayo Derricotte & Kamille King

Music: Gibran Alococer

Performed by: Usaama Dance Company Pre Teens

Patience

Choreographed and performed by: Will Ervin

Music: Rain by Sunday Service Choir

The Passageway

Choreography: Kamille King

Music: Doomed by Moses Sumney

Performed by: The Company

INTERMISSION

A selection of African dances that celebrate harvest, rite of passage, love and freedom.

Yankadi/Macru

Choreography: Karen L. Love

Performed by: Umoja Dance Company & Alumni

Liberte

Choreography: Karen L. Love

Performed by: Usaama Dance Company

Lamban/Sunnu

Choreography: Kcydiima Zahir & Carla Nisbett

Performed by: Titilayo Derricotte, Carla Nisbett, Christine Placide, Najla Sims, Kcykiiyu Zahir

Yamama

Choreography: Karen L. Love

Performed by: Kamille King, Tiara Knox, Breana Lafortune, Dondrea Taylor-Stewart, Kcydiima Zahir

Saturday Youth Dance and Drum Class

Zion Briddle-Fredericks, Eva Essel, Morgan Graham, Brendann Igoe, Phoenix Moore, Luisa Ohemeng, Averi Reid, Ayele Smith, Khai'im Smith

Choreography: Karen L. Love

Guest: Female Drum Class

Director: Jana Burton

Shamira Briddle-Charriez, Dena Cook, Tainisha McKinney, Kai Smith

Fula Fare

Choreography: Karen L. Love

Performed by: Umoja Dance Company

Drummers Selection

Finale

Choreography: Kamille King



KAREN LOVE, FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Born in Montclair, Love earned her MFA from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and her B.F.A. from Montclair State University where she was awarded the 1992 Excellence in Choreography Award and the 1993 Senior Award. She received The New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship Grant in 1995 and the Harkness Choreographers Space Grant at SUNY Purchase in 1993 and 1994. In 1997, Love was invited to The Bates Dance Festival in Maine as an Emerging Choreographer and later returned to teach for the Young Dancers Program. She was selected as a choreographer for the Choreographer/Dancer residency at the Yard on Martha's Vineyard, recognized in Who's Who Among American Teacher's and was honored as one of the "50 Women You Should Know in Montclair, NJ". Love received the New Jersey State Council on the Arts 2023 Individual Artist Fellowship. She was one of the 96 artists selected from 635 eligible participants.

Presently, Love is the director of the dance program at Hillside High School, director of the after school dance program for Hillside Public Schools district and an adjunct professor at Montclair State University. Love is a Certified Pilates Mat Instructor and certified 300 RYT yoga teacher registered with Yoga Alliance. Love is a DanceNJ Executive Board Member and NJPAC Dance Advisory Co-Chair.

She has studied West African dance and culture for the past thirty years. Love was awarded two consecutive Folk Artist Apprenticeships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to study Guinean Dance with Master Teacher M' Bemba Bangoura. She was able to travel to Guinea, Mexico and Bermuda under the tutelage of Bangoura. Love was able to study under her mentor the late Baba Chuck Davis in Senegal, The Gambia and Morocco. She traveled with her assistant director Nailah Morris to Cuba to study with Danys La Mora Perez. She traveled to Australia as a representative for the dance department of Montclair State University where she both performed and taught classes in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Love has performed with Urban Bush Women, Gallman's Newark Dance Theatre, and The Von Howard Project. She performed in Cole Porter's musical "Jubilee" at Carnegie Hall directed by the late Herbert Ross.

Love is a former Visiting Artist in Residence at Kent State University in Ohio where she taught classes in Contemporary Modern, Composition, West African dance, Dance History and served as the advisor for the BFA Senior Projects. Her choreography has been commissioned and presented at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, DTW Freshtracks, Aaron Davis Hall, The Yard, Symphony Space, Danspace, Joyce Soho, Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center, Bates Dance Festival, Duke University, Northern Illinois University, Bal/Chi Dance Theatre, Montclair State University, NYU, Newark Arts High School and Montclair High School. She has conducted numerous dance residencies and workshops throughout the country.

NAILAH LISA RAMONDE MORRIS , ASSISTANT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Nailah Lisa Morris has been dancing since the age of 12. She began with ballet and eventually found her way to African dance as a young adult. Her love of African dance afforded her the opportunity to perform with several companies: Mamadou Dahoue and the Ancestral Dancers, Harambee Dance Company, M'Bemba Bangoura & G'Bossikolo, Umoja Dance Company, as well as participating in Dance Africa/NY as a Candle Bearer. Nailah performed internationally in places like Taiwan, Jamaica, Brazil, and Cuba. Over the years, Nailah began to perform less and chose to devote more of her time to her passion in other ways. She is currently the Assistant Artistic Director for the Umoja Dance Company. Nailah is also an active board member for Viver Brazil - a L.A. based Brazilian dance company, and she served as the Administrative Assistant for the Brooklyn based community dance school Aspire 2 Dance for over 10 years. Today, Nailah enjoys Afro-Cuban dance and is a member of the GMA Dance School under the direction of Gilset Mora. Her motto is Dance is Life and Life is Dance!



CHRISTINE SMITH, COMPANY MANAGER

Christine Smith, affectionately known to the Umoja family as Ms Christine, was educated in the Newark Public Schools. She received her BA degree in Music from Montclair State College. She also earned a MA degree in Special Education from Kean University. She began teaching at Riverdale High School in Fort Myers, Florida. She later returned to New Jersey and worked in the Newark Public Schools before joining the Montclair High School faculty in 1986. Christine retired from a distinguished and rewarding 32 years teaching career in 2010. However, she currently substitutes throughout the Montclair Schools as needed. She is a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church and the Count Basie Choir of Red Bank NJ. serving as Company Manager for the UDC since 1995, Christine works with Ms. Love, in establishing strategies to position UDC as a cornerstone in NJ's cultural arts community. Responsibilities include marketing, forging community engagement partnerships, procuring and negotiating contracts, and securing funding. Christine is honored to continue support of UDC's incredible work, commitment to high quality preparation, education, and transformative community impact as we celebrate this 30th season of UDC's perseverance, innovation, dedication, and love for dance and culture.

"To God Be The Glory"



KAI SMITH - FINANCE DIRECTOR

Kai has enjoyed dancing since the young age of 5. She is a humble student and supporter of the legacy of African Culture and regularly travels to participate in classes taught in NJ, NY and FL. Kai whole-heartedly supports Umoja Dance Company's vision and legacy. She respects the powerful healing rhythm of the drum and knows that it is an honor and privilege to uphold the traditions and history bestowed upon us by our Ancestors and Elders.

CORI BARNES

Cori is a New Jersey based performing artist who started her career at a very young age acting & modeling. Her love of dance blossomed from the age of two years old through the guidance of renowned professional dancer Shirley Black Brown. She furthered her professional dance training at Sharon Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts, Newark School of the Arts, Dance Theater of Harlem and a plethora of legendary choreographers Louis Johnson, Maurice Hines, Carmen De Lavallade and many more. She later joined both M.A. Taylor Dance Company and Umoja Dance Company. Cori has elevated her career as a professional ballerina, instructor, creative director, and choreographer.



JANA M. BURTON (CONTRAMESTRA AMAZONAS)

Jana is a proud member of the more than 6 professional martial arts Hall of Fames. She was recently promoted to one of the highest ranking African American females in the USA in Capoeira during a belt promotion ceremony in 2020. As the Curriculum Developer and Artistic Director for the Afro Brazilian Arts and Education Academy, Amazonas blends experiences within the arts in several West African and Afro Brazilian performance groups across the country and teaches internationally, as well. Concurrently, she serves as the Mathematics Coach of Lincoln Elementary school in Newark Public Schools.



TITILAYO DERRICOTTE

Titilayo is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (2010) where she received a B.F.A. in Dance and a minor in Social Cultural Analysis. She is a member of Umoja Dance Company for artistic director Karen Love, and has performed for Ronnie D. Carney, and for Kyle Abraham's company Abraham.In.Motion (A.I.M.).

Ms. Derricotte was a member of renowned dance company Forces of Nature Dance Theater (September 2015 June 2017), during which time she performed at the Apollo Theater, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, St. James Cathedral, and in the Bessie-Award Winning ballet The Healing Sevens for Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) 2017 Dance Africa.

Titilayo currently works as a full time dance instructor for KIPP NJ: TEAM Academy in Newark NJ, founding and developing the dance program at the national network's flagship school, and is co-assistant Director for Usaama Dance Company in Vauxhall, NJ

KAMILLE KING

Kamille J. King of New Jersey, is an educator, arts advocate and choreographer. King received her undergraduate degree with a concentration in African American Studies from Smith College in 2008, where she studied with Mark Allen Davis, Donna Meija, Nia Love and Roger Blum. King premiered *Waiting in the Leftovers* for the Emerging Artist of Jersey Moves (New) Moves at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in 2016, created a dance program at East Orange Campus High School in New Jersey in 2017, participated as a Guest Teaching Artist in the One Love Festival Negri, Jamaica in 2018 and 2019, was the co-host for a Pre-Performance Discussion with Karen Love for the Rennie Harris and the Puremovement dance company performance of *Lifted* in 2019, a panelist for the Price Institute of Rutgers University Healing Movement: Dancing from Trauma to Healing event in 2020, and a Guest Teaching Artist for NJPAC in 2020. King is a proud member of Umoja Dance Company and serves as Co-Assistant Director for the Usaama Company under the direction of Karen Love. In 2019, she received her M.F.A. from Hollins University and joined the teaching faculty of Montclair High School in 2022.



TIARA C. KNOX

Tiara C. Knox, is a New Jersey-based teaching artist, performer, and choreographer. She received her training in dance from New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Umoja Dance Studio, and Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts. Knox earned her BA in K-12 Dance Education from Montclair State University, where she was awarded the Mary Ann Peins Award for Dance Education, and went on to earn a Master of Arts in Theatre and Dance from Wayne State University. She has presented choreography and performed at several dance festivals including the Jersey New Moves Festival and the annual Metrowest Dance Festival. Tiara has an intense passion for arts education and advocacy in public schools and has established and developed dance programs in several schools throughout New Jersey. Currently, she serves as a dance educator for the East Orange Public Schools.



BREANA LAFORTUNE

Breana Astaire LaFortune is a Brooklyn-born Haitian-American. She was given "Astaire" as her middle name after the legendary dancer, singer, and actor Fred Astaire. With the influence of her parents, she started studying Guinean and Ivorian dance at the age of 6 under the direction of Youssouf Koumbassa and Mamadou Dahoue. At the age of nine, she became a member of Mamadou Danoue and the Ancestral Messengers. She performed at various venues such as Dance Africa, Botanical Garden, Ivory Coast embassy in Washington DC, International Street Festival. Breana is former member of the Restoration Dance Theatre Junior Company located in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, NY. Throughout her years she has had the pleasure of being trained under the tutelage of such master instructors as Baba Chuck Davis, Karen Thornton-Daniels, Obediah Wright, Ronald K. Brown, M'Bemba Bangoura, Wilhelmina Taylor, Esther Grant-Walker, Michelle Smith, Mama Andara Rahman, Ismael Kouyate, Sandella Malloy, Vado Diomande Kotchegna, Amina Royster, Shani Borden, Dyane Harvey-Salaam, Jill Vallery, and Chris (Sweat) White. Breana has her MPH from Drexel University and works for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She is blessed to be part of Umoja Dance Company and honored to give back to her community through dance. She would love to thank all her family and friends for their support and guidance throughout her dancing career.

CARLA NISBETT

Carla Nisbett was born and raised in Newark, NJ. As a first generation American, to Trinidadian parents, she spent the majority of her life immersed into Caribbean culture and developed a deep love for music and dance. She played the clarinet, steel drums, alto and baritone saxophone throughout her younger years into young adulthood. Carla graduated from Drew University with a B.A. in Biology and a minor in music. She later attended Montclair State University for graduate school and received a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2016. She started as an elementary Special Educator and then a Literacy Interventionist. She is currently teaching in Middle School Inclusion classrooms in Morris School District. Carla also taught as an adjunct professor at Montclair State University. Carla began studying traditional West African dance in 2010 under the tutelage of Zul-Latifa Zahiratu, founder, director and choreographer of Spectrums Afrikans. She later began dancing with Umoja Dance Company in 2019. She believes that through her dance, she is paying homage to those who came before her, honoring those who are still here and paving the way for future generations to be the gatekeepers of our culture.



CHRISTOPHER ODOMS

(Hillside, NJ) received his BFA in dance at Montclair State University. He began his dance training at Hillside High School in 2013 with Karen Love and joined Umoja in 2016. Chris is currently a dance therapist at Sevia Health Network in Bath, Pennsylvania. There he works with individuals with developmental disabilities. He is very excited to return for the anniversary.



TANIYYAH PAYNE

Taniyyah received her BFA in dance at Montclair State University in May 2023.. Her training began at the Ailey School as a scholarship recipient, training intensely in Ballet, Jazz, Horton, Contemporary & West African. Throughout Taniyyah's training she's had the opportunity to work with artists such as Tommie Waheed, Steffanie Batten Bland, Larry Keigwin, Urban Bush Women, Earl Mosley, Christian von Howard, and Maxine Steinman. In addition to her pre-professional training, she's also hosted drop-in classes teaching HipHop and Heels.

JAILYN PHILLIPS-WILEY

Jailyn Phillips-Wiley (she/her) is a Brooklyn based movement artist who believes dance is not only an artistic outlet, but a physical, mental and spiritual release that is vital to the human experience. A born and bred product of New Jersey, Jailyn has been privileged enough to train in an array of styles from ballet to west African dance since the tender age of four years old, honing in on that knowledge to inform her creative expression today. Jailyn graduated from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, where she worked with her peers, Shannon Gillen/Vim Vigor Dance, Dawn Marie Bazemore, Chein-Ying Wang/Paul O'Campo and others. In her senior year, she received the Majorie J. Turner award for outstanding choreography for her senior thesis. She attended the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in Israel/Palestine, and was immersed into the gaga movement language, and learned through past and present members of Batsheva Dance Company and Vertigo Dance Company. Jailyn finds fulfillment in making collage art, nerding out on music/music history, fashion styling, swimming, and enjoying the company of her loved ones. Jailyn strives to elevate and strengthen her artistic voice through an afro-surrealist lens.



CHRISTINE PLACIDE

Christine Placide, Esq. is a Haitian American lawyer from Brooklyn, NY. Christine's study of dance commenced when she was six years of age. Christine danced annually at the Dance Africa at BAM as a member of the Restoration Dance Theatre and as a company member of the Thioassane West African Dance Institute. Christine had the pleasure of being trained under the tutelage of such master instructors as Baba Chuck Davis, Youseff Koumbassa, Marie Brooks, Robin Gee, Esther Grant-Walker, Karen Thornton-Daniels, Mama Andara Rahman, Karen Love, and Suzan Kounta. Christine's passion for the arts led her to volunteer at Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, providing legal counsel to low-income creatives. Christine received her B.A. in African Studies, with a minor in Dance and French from The Ohio State University and her J.D. from Touro Law School. Before graduating, Christine worked abroad as a teacher at Meiguo Academies in Beijing, China. Currently, Christine is In-House Legal Counsel at Elite World Group, a worldwide model/talent management network. She is honored to be a part of the Umoja Dance Company and is excited about continuing to build a supportive community for artists. Christine thanks her family and friends for their love and support.



NAJLA AMBER SIMS

Najla Amber Sims is a dancer, choreographer, educator, and community organizer. Raised in Montclair, New Jersey, Najla studied musical theater at a young age. She later discovered a passion for West African music and dance when she joined USAAMA Pre-professional Dance Company. Najla continued her career in Performance Art while studying Drama and Dance at Spelman College. In Atlanta she set new works and restaged pieces with various artists, such as T.Lang, Meredith Moore, Blake Beckham, Omelika Kuumba, Dianne McIntyre, Marjani Forté, and Aku Kadogo. She is now a company member with UMOJA Dance Company, REDi Dance Company, and Movement of the People Dance Company. As an artist Najla is influenced by dances of the African Diaspora, social justice issues, and connecting the mind and spirit in movement. She hopes to create space in the dance community for more artists of color.

DONDREA TAYLOR-STEWART

Dondrea Taylor-Stewart, a native of Maplewood, New Jersey, discovered her passion for dance as a praise dancer in church. She began training and performing with various companies, including Theatre Workshop under Marie Thomas-Foster, where she first learned Hip Hop and West African dance. As she grew older, Dondrea explored her own choreography and joined Columbia High School's Special Dance Company, directed by Kandice Point Du Jour. Here, she met Karen Love and joined Usaama Dance Company, dancing with them for six years. Dondrea went on to earn her BA in Anthropology/Sociology with a minor in Psychology from Pace University. During this time, she trained and performed with Brickhouse NYC and XPro, a semi-professional hip-hop crew for adults. After graduation, she realized dance was her true calling and decided to prioritize her passion by incorporating it into her everyday life. Dondrea is now an Associate Dance Teacher at New York's Success Academy in Union Square and has returned to Umoja to continue growing and feeding her soul. With her diverse background in various dance forms and dedication to teaching and inspiring young dancers, Dondrea hopes to impact the dance community positively.



KCYDIIMA ZAHIR

Kcydiima Zahir was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. As a child brought up in an Afro-centric household, Kcydiima began African dance before she could walk. In her younger years she started to explore her craft. Dancing lessons at the Newark School of the Arts was an introduction to ballet, tap and modern dance. At the same time, Kcydiima would be attending African dance classes under the instruction of her mother, Zul-Latifatu Zahiratu, and Marie Basse, her first African teacher. Kcydiima continued dancing through high school, mastering her craft at Arts High school under the teachings of Kim Richardson. After high school she continued dancing through college, teaching classes and also starting a dance group while attending Montclair State University. Over the years Kcydiima has danced with Maimouna Keita and Zawadi Dance School. She is currently dancing with Spektrums Africans and Umoja Dance Company. As a mom, Kcydiima thinks it is important to continue to pass the culture down to the next generation. Her son, Khelile is learning the music and dance of the African culture as well.



KCYKIIYU ZAHIR

Kcykiiyu Zahir began her journey in dance at the young age of 3. Although the youngest of six dancers and drummers, she was the "fire" of the family. Kcykiiyu has always danced under the study of her mother Zul-Latifa Zahiratu, founder, director and choreographer of Spektrums Afrikans. She continued her teaching with Maimouna Keita, Zawadi school of African dance for several years and currently dances with Umoja dance Company. Kcykiiyu brings style, fire and energy to the dance, and an unending amount of personal persona that distinguishes her.

GUEST ARTIST

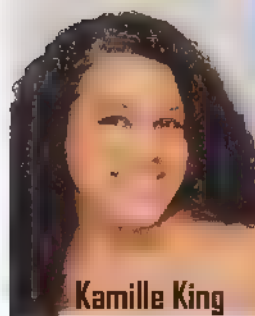
WILL ERVIN

Will is an east coast native. He earned his BFA in dance from Montclair State University (May 2017). He graduated with an MFA in dance from the University of Illinois in May 2020. He has also trained with Joffrey Ballet, EMIA Rennie Harris, Jacobs Pillow, and Alonzo King's Lines Ballet. Since graduating, Ervin has performed at Alexander Kasser Theatre, the Joyce Theatre, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music with the Hearts of Men ensemble. As Artistic Director of his own company Erv Works Dance, he has presented choreography at the University of Illinois set on 1st year Dance Majors, the Dumbo Dance Festival, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. His newest works were created for Kemar's newest project headlining 2021's Global Black Pride event where Kemar's work was presented after the keynote speaker President Joe Biden, Battery Dance Festival, Mara Torres's Sol El Bario, and the Joyce Theatre in partnership with Future Dance Festival, 92nd Y, and The Martha Graham Dance Company. Other accomplishments include interning with American Ballet Theatre's Major Gifts Department, previously serving as the Co. Director of Dance at Brooklyn Center for the Arts and Resident Choreographer of Judah International Dance Theater. He was recently named Dance Lab by Josh Prince's 2022 fall cycle choreographer, Dance on the Lawn's 2022 emerging commissioned choreographer, and just set work on Dimensions Dance Theater of Miami.

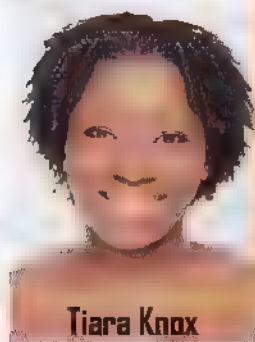




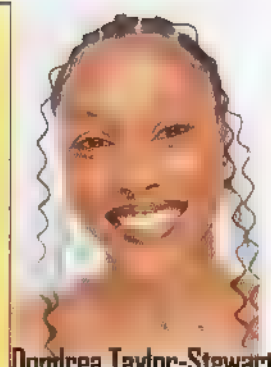
Titilayo Derricotte



Kamille King



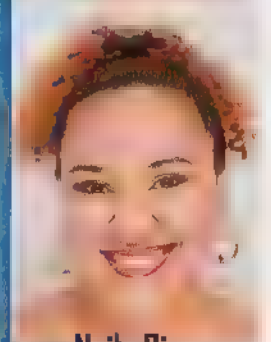
Tiara Knox



Dondrea Taylor-Stewart



Jailyn Phillips-Wiley



Najla Sims

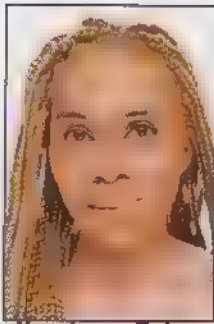
USAAMA, meaning "precious" in Swahili, is a pre-professional performing youth company founded in 1995 that strives to give today's youth a sense of pride, culture, and knowledge through dance. The company has been designed to help introduce inspiring young dancers into the world of dance, performing and assisting in developing self-esteem, self-respect and respect for the arts. The company encourages respect for our elders and the community. The dancers are exposed to professional artists and performing venues so they can learn the discipline required of all artists.

The artists listed above started dancing with Usaama when they were pre-teen or teens and are UMOJA company members.

A full circle moment that we are extremely proud of.

The Legacy Continues

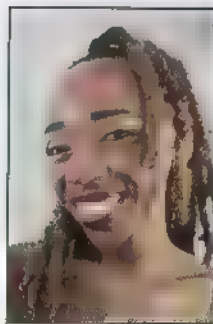
Ashe Ashe Ashe



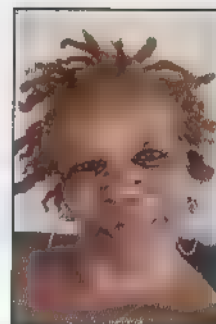
Kcydiima Zahir



Kcykiiyu Zahir



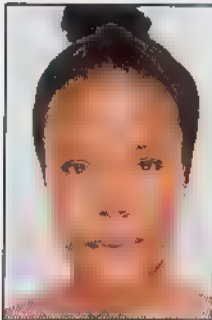
Denise Brown



Lisa Morris



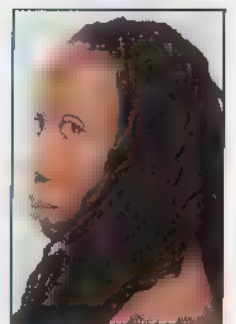
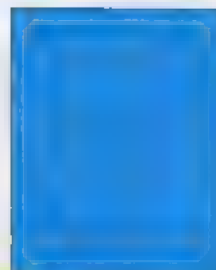
Chris Odoms



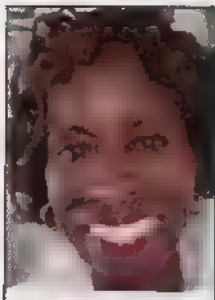
Breana Lafortune



UMOJA



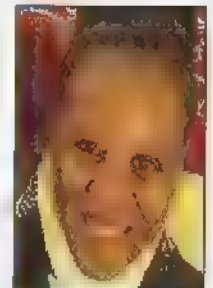
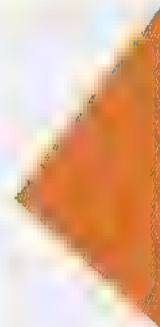
Jana Burton



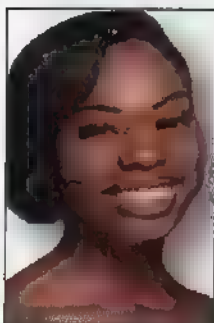
Christine Smith



Karen Love, Founder/Artistic Director



Kai Smith



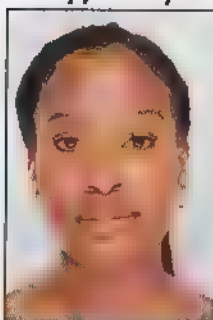
Taniyyah Payne



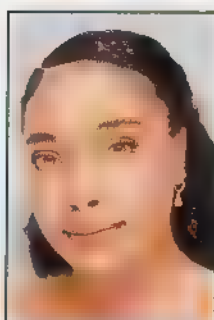
DANCE COMPANY



Carla Nisbett



Christine Placide



Cori Barnes



Kiinar Zahir



Kzurii Zahir



Stephan Listzey



The background of the cover features a large, circular, iridescent gemstone with a complex, faceted pattern, set against a dark blue, draped fabric background. The text is overlaid on this design.

UMOJA DANCE COMPANY

30th

ANNIVERSARY

HONOREES



Kandice N. Point-Du-Jour

Kandice N. Point-Du-Jour is a dedicated dance educator at Columbia High School and artistic director of the Special Dance Company for 23 years. Her mission is focused on providing students with a quality dance education within the public school system. She is devoted to inspiring students to not only build technique but to connect dance to their personal, cultural and social aspects of life. Using dance history and choreography as a means to cultivate and refine personal expression. Kandice is the recipient of many awards, including the NJ Chapter of the National Black MBA Association's Community Lifestyle Award, Eastern District Dance Teacher of the Year by the American Alliance of Health, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), as well as the NJAHPERD Dance Teacher of the Year Award. The first cooperating teacher in the state of New Jersey for dance education, mentoring student teachers from Montclair State University and Rutgers University. She currently serves on Dance New Jersey's Executive Board and chair of their Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access Committee. Through the National Dance Education Organization she has mentored aspiring and novice dance educators and supervises six pairs of mentor and mentee relationships nationally. Kandice is also the host of the Get the Point! Dance Podcast. This dance education podcast is focused on inspiring and educating through the lens of social justice & culturally relevant classrooms. Additionally, Mrs. Point-Du-Jour is a presenter for many state and national conferences, and provides professional development to other educators in the field. She enjoys educating through consultant work and motivational speaking.



Porché Hardy

Porché is a Program Officer in the Arts at The Wallace Foundation with extensive expertise and experience working with teams in both government and nonprofits to develop programs to help build a stronger arts sector and a more equitable pathway to social change through arts funding and sector leadership. She has served as a Program Officer with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Assistant Director of the Institute of Music for Children in Elizabeth, NJ, and Associate Director for Arts Training at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. She is a Trustee of Arts Ed NJ, a member of the Arts Education Partnership (AEP) Advisory Council, and a founding steering committee for the NJ Arts & Culture Administrators of Color (NJACAC) network.

Porché is an alumna of The Council of Urban Professionals, the Victoria Emerging Leadership Program, Leadership Newark and served as the President of the Urban League of Essex County Young Professionals.

Porché holds a BA in from Rutgers University and is an alumna of the William Esper Studio. She studied classical voice at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Montclair State University, and privately with award-winning singers and coaches.



Susan Gaddy Pope

Susan is a retired dance educator with over 30 years of experience in K-12. She is an adjunct professor and coordinator for the BA program at Montclair State University. She also supervises student teachers at Rutgers University. Previously she taught dance for the Newark Board of Education and the New York City Department of Education, where she also directed the SUMA/Children's Aid Society Dance Company. Susan Pope holds a BA in dance from the University of Maryland and a MA in dance education from Teacher's College, Columbia University.

Susan is a doctoral candidate in the Dance Education program at Teachers College, Columbia Univ. As an Arnhold Fellow and recipient of the Susan H. Fuhrman scholarship, her research focuses on embodied pedagogy for pre-service teachers through an indigenous and Africanist lens. Her non-profit organization, I DANCE BECAUSE, provides scholarships for Newark dance students and transformative educational programs for students and teachers. Along with two other Newark dance educators, Susan was awarded an ArtStart grant to create a documentary, Brick City Dance: A Renaissance Endeavor which explores the impact of dance education in Newark Public Elementary Schools over the last 20 years. As a published author, Susan has contributed to the depth of knowledge in dance education through journals and books. Her publications include articles in Dance Education in Practice titled: Moving Meditations: A Guide to Embodying Gratitude, Teaching Dance History to Middle School Students, an article in the International Journal of AAHPERD titled Mourning into Dancing - The Transformation of Lives: A Personal Journey; I DANCE BECAUSE..., a collection of stories, essays and poems about dance; and DANCING MY PRAYERS, a guide to combining movement and prayer in your devotional life. Her latest book chapter in The Loveliness Project helps elevate the voices of Black women.

Susan is a frequent presenter for New Jersey Performing Arts Center Community (NJPAC) Engagement Program, providing workshops for the community. She also serves on the NJPAC dance advisory council. In May of 2000, Susan was invited to the White House to speak at a Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth conference. Susan spoke on the impact of dance education in the lives of her students. In 1998 she was selected to be in Who's Who Among American Teachers. Susan served as the director of the St. James AME Church Dance Ministry for over 10 years. She is a member of the National Liturgical Dance Ministry Network, National Dance Education Organization, Dance New Jersey, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Susan believes God created her with the definite purpose of helping others through movement.



Alysia Souder

Alysia Souder is the Executive Director of The Institute of Music for Children in Elizabeth, NJ. Guided by its vision of H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. - Helping Achieve Responsible, Motivated, Optimistic, Neighborhood Youth - the Institute is building an equitable community of high-achieving citizens who are arts lovers and arts makers through professional instruction, mentorship, and family engagement. Ms. Souder has over 25 years of experience as an arts educator and arts administrator. As a teaching artist, she has worked across the tri-state area and for organizations including Arts Horizons, Playwrights Theatre, Papermill Playhouse and the NJ Performing Arts Center teaching acting, playwriting, and conflict-resolution in schools, community organizations, and youth facilities. She is passionate about the role the arts should play in young peoples growth and development and bringing the arts to youth impacted by trauma has been central to her work.

In 2013 she was honored as an NJ Emerging Leader by the Center for Non Profits and Fairleigh Dickenson University's Center for Excellence. Actively involved in the development of arts education and equity on a statewide level, Ms.Souder serves as the Chair of Arts Ed Newark. She served on the Leadership Team for Elevating Equity and is a steering committee member of NJ's Creating Change Conferences.

Ms. Souder is also an emcee, a facilitator and an international presenter, having been featured at education conferences in the United States, Guatemala, Germany and South Africa. Ms. Souder is also a playwright and director. Most recently she co-wrote and co-directed a dance theatre piece with Nimbus Dance Company titled "Raucous Caucus Tango" which premiered at NJPAC in 2021. Her one-man play, Flat Black will be produced by Yendor Theatre Company in their upcoming 2023-24 season.



Kika Wise

Kika Wise is a former professional dancer turned entrepreneur, franchisor and wellness educator. As a forward-thinking and innovative visionary, Kika is the Founder and CEO of Kika Stretch Studios, one of the nation's leading stretch and fitness studios.

With 11 locations throughout the United States, including New Jersey, Georgia, California and Texas, Kika is just one of the few African American women franchisors in the country. Born and raised in New Jersey, in high school, Kika developed an interest in dance when her family relocated from Newark to Bloomfield. By the age of sixteen, Kika had trained in a variety of styles before graduating from Bloomfield High School, and eventually earning a bachelor's degree in Dance from Montclair State University. As a professional dancer, Kika wowed audiences with standout performances in the Apollo Circus of Soul at the world-famous Apollo Theater in New York City, and has been a featured dancer in music videos for various artists and in commercials for such major conglomerates as MTV and Samsung. The versatile talent also appeared on HBO's *Flight of the Concorde* and NBC's hugely popular sitcom *30 Rock*. In 2011, Kika Wise founded Kika Stretch Studios to introduce a new approach to how people think about health and fitness. Through gentle assisted stretching, Kika Stretch Studios helps clients maintain youth and vitality with designed tension relief that aids in increased flexibility and overall ability. Incorporating a dancer's approach to stretching and fitness with a signature one-of-a-kind Kika Method®. Kika has also developed the Kika Stretch Age®, a unique tool used to measure a client's age based on flexibility. Kika Stretch Studios' unique system also features a custom line of products, including stretching oils and socks to enhance the assisted stretching experience.

As one of the nation's youngest and most promising franchisors, Kika is rapidly growing her brand and helping others along the way. Having established a successful career of wellness built on the hope of inspiring and empowering others, Kika Wise is a businesswoman on a mission to educate millennials and other generations on how to preserve self and pursue franchising.

Thank You

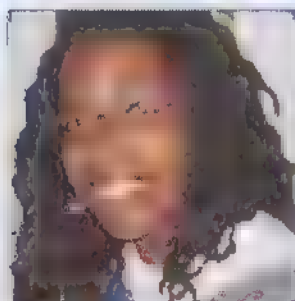
to all our supporters who read, donated or participated in our dance class fundraiser.

Katrina Alexander
Karol Andino Joann Ashby
Cori Barnes Lauren Tutt-Boyd Jana Burton
Rita Christopher Shannon Clarke Michelle Clarke
Holly Cox Errol Dankins Audrey Davis Titilayo Derricotte
Carolyn Dorfman Mr. Dureshwitz Michelle Finikin
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Donna Bost White
Kim Wiggins
Ramona Williams
Keydiima Zahir

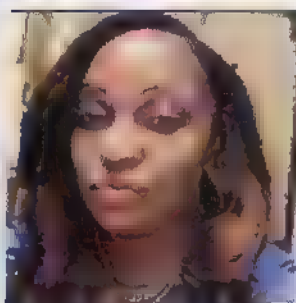
HONORING Our Ancestors



Mama Yaa McCoy Franklin



Yewande Kelly Johnson



Wakina Humphrey



Melvin Blah Fogle



Zenobia Clark

We pay homage
to our Umoja family who have transitioned.
Each person contributed to our legacy
and we are forever thankful.

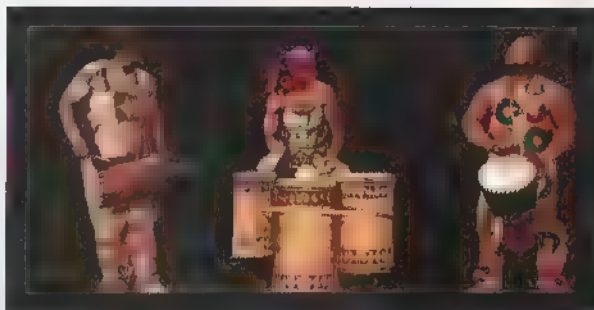
UMOJA ALUMNI

1993 - 2023

Joe Barnes
Danah Bella
Richard Bird
Nadia Blakemore
Shani Britt
Bernard Brown
LebraShawn Chase
Katie Atkins Castillo
Jackie Chapman
Zenobia Clark
Maureen Clayton
Toshii K.D Cooper
Naima Duncan
Shatina Edwards
Michelle Eriksson
Nicole Fallon
Malvin Blak Fogle
Kimani Fowlin
Ama Gora
Djuana Green
M'ten Halsey
Rhonda Holland
Wakina Humphrey
Iyedun Ince
Shakura Ismail
Tamara Jones
mani Jones
Shola Jones
Ciru Karanja
Ajamu Kedar

Jennifer Landa
Djion Lindsey
Ade Love
Titilayo Majoyeogbe
Farai Malianga
Sandra Mazara
Sandella Malloy
Genaro Martinez
Wilson Mendiata
Krista Miller
Karen Miles
Foluso Mimy
Kamu Mimy
Tahitia Nesmith
Omagbiste Omagbemi
Ray Phillip
Clarissa Newby Phillips
Christi Porter
Nzinga Reed
Imani Jones; Ratliff
Alicia Dominguez Romeo
Laurie Romeo
Nadia Rush
Natalie Stephen
Greg Taylor
Dionne Thomas
Jakotora Tjoutuku
Zakiyah Torbert
Larry Turner
Christian VonHoward
Jennifer Williams
Shea Zephir

DANCE



DRUM
MOVE
CREATE

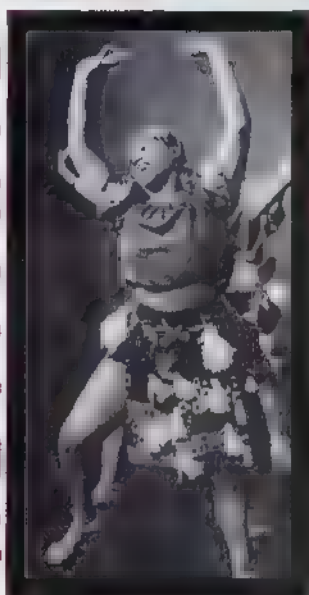
LOVE TEACH



INSPIRE

MOTIVATE

GIVE



LAUGH



LEARN



Umoja's Dancing Angel

In Loving Memory of

Umoja's Dancing Angel

10/26/77 - 4/12/22





CONGRATULATIONS

Umoja Dance Company

Established 1993

THE BURTON FAMILY

is proud of you for chasing your dreams and creating a stage for others. You share your platforms, inspire and empower others with your creativity. We are proud to be your family and support your tremendous efforts. Thank you for impacting the lives of so many with your love for movement and music.



Where it all began

FORGIVING



Karen
LOVE

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Karen Love

FOR

MAKING

PURSUING THE CREATIVE LIFE

THINGS

WITHOUT QUITTING YOUR DAY JOB

HAPPEN

THANK YOU FOR INVITING US
TO BE PART OF YOUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
AND FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR
JOURNALS WITH YOU.

LOVINGLY SUBMITTED BY

Past & Present

UMOJA & USAAMA
DANCERS AND MUSICIANS

Congratulations from your family!
Many names but all with love and admiration 5-6-7-8

"Karen answers to "KLove, Aunt Karen, Furu, Miss Karen, the sister that dances, the youngest one, Nana, Minnie, the dancer, Ms. Love, David and Gloria's youngest child and Cookie's youngest sister."

"Karen, when I came from California you were about 8yrs old. You have grown up to be such a spirited young lady! Congrats on 30 yrs. of dancing and teaching. If I may in speaking for your mom, Dad, Sweetie, and Cousin Evelyn (Elder) we love you and may God continue to bless you!"

Cousin Evelyn

"Congrats on 30 years of commitment to your craft! 5-6-7-8!" Love Holly & Bro in law Larry & Lynn "A dancer wrapped in the manifestation of joy!"

Maymunah

"Aunt Karen can always find the fun and dances to the beat of her own drums."

Nimah

"Congrats on 30yrs of Umoja Dance Company! I remember watching this company grow since I was a little girl, and I am so proud of what it has become. Wish you all the best and many more years!"

Kiana

"Congratulations Karen on 30 amazing years of Umoja Dance Company! You are an inspiration to many, and we are all so proud of you!"

Marilyn Jacobs and Damika

"Congratulations! You have truly been an inspiration to your students and community. Much continued success" Namaste, Swan, and William Families!

Your family had this to say:



**May the wind, passion,
strength, courage, and
endurance keep you
soaring!**

"Karen is a leader, a motivator, and creative powerhouse of energy for her students and community. Her love of African dance is uncompromising. She has a beautiful soul full of love"

Cousin Todd and family.

"I am so proud of you Karen! You always knew what you wanted to do with your dancing! Congratulations on your 30th Anniversary with Umoja Dance Company."

Love, your cousin Debbie.

"When I was a kid, I remember going to watch you dance and now your company is 30yrs old. We are both getting old. Love you and keep going from the youngest to youngest."

Ubaidullah

"Karen you are a smart, intelligent, and determined woman. I love you with all my heart."

Cousin Donnie

"Aunt Karen is an inspiration to the dance community. She continues to push others to free themselves on the dance floor, stage, and wherever the music takes them in this journey of life!"

Abdullah

"Karen, my cousin, I have watched her perform from an early age and always knew she would be a great performer and a wonderful human being! I am proud and always wishing you the best!"

Cousin Errol



CHRISTINE PLACIDE

From the moment you could walk you were dancing...
to MJ...Miles, Olatunji's drums, Diana Ross and more!
Dance is not your hobby..avocation..or job. Dance is a life force
which has imbued you with the marvelous qualities that you walk proudly
through life with: character; discipline; humility; integrity;
recognition of the Creator and the embracing of sisterhood.

The study, practice, and performance of African dance in particular over
the decades has kept you fit, healthy and in touch with your spirit.

We are extremely proud of the woman you are.

We also congratulate The Umoja Dance Company on its 30th anniversary
and pray for many more years of growth and success.

Joseph Placide, Marie Placide, Diana Placide

Dad, Mom and Big Sis

JUNE 24, 2023

GIANNI



Mommy is so proud of you, Gianni!
Happy Anniversary to you and our Umoja family!

PRIVACY
PARLOR

Tailored Loc Service

Master Loctician
Emily Prince



Follow us on Instagram
Facebook & TikTok
@privacyparlor



Services

• Starter Locs
• Loc Maintenance
• Loc Repair
• Loc Removal

East Orange New Jersey

DETOX. PURIFY. REJUVENATE

perfection is in the practice

aerial / hot & not hot vinyasa salt
therapy sessions / sip & shop / Iyengar
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advanced & basic teacher training
programs

Bring a friend
complimentary with this ad.

Try us for one month
New Students
Only \$57
for unlimited classes!



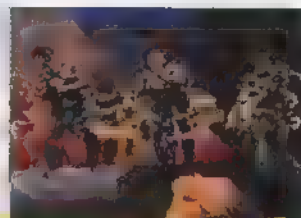
JAI

www.jaiglobalyoga.com
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Montclair Center, NJ 07042
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Still time to join us
Let the celebration continue in Jamaica!



UMOJA DANCE COMPANY



30th Anniversary Celebration August 10-14, 2023

Negril Treehouse Resort located in Negril, Jamaica



COST PER PERSON

- Packages starting at \$485.00 (Double Occupancy)
- Single rooms and suite options available call for details

PAYMENT

\$125.00 non refundable deposit required to hold your reservation

Balance due by June 1, 2023

No refunds after June 1, 2023

Flexible payment plans available.

Reservations payable by credit/debit card, zelle, cashapp

ALL SALES FINAL

PRICE INCLUDES

- Buffet Breakfast every morning
- Dinner Friday & Saturday Evening
- Anniversary Performance
- Dance, yoga, drumming classes
- R/T airport transportation from Montego Bay airport to the Treehouse resort
- Tax and Gratuity



REMINDERS:

- PASSPORT REQUIRED
- AIRPORT: MONTEGO BAY AIRPORT (MBJ)
- PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE FLIGHTS.
- Additional tour options available for additional costs.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Catamaran Cruise \$85.00 Adults Only
- Jam West
- Jannies on the Reef
- Ricks Café
- Zimbali
- Benta River Falls



To book your reservations or questions contact:

Cindy Adams-Glenn

412-860-0486

cindy.ag@verizon.net



www.umojadance.com



**UMOJA DANCE STUDIO
& UMOJA DANCE COMPANY**



KAREN L. LOVE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Join us in the fall. We offer classes in
dance
yoga
capoeira
drumming

Studio available for rentals

2120 Springfield Avenue
Vauxhall, NJ 07088

P. O. Box 1257
Montclair, NJ 07042

Studio 862-621-9130

Cell 973-280-2294

 **umoja.dancewofabe**

 **umojadancestudio**

Happy 30th Anniversary
to Karen Love and the premier Umoja Dance Company!



Umoja African Dance Class

You have blazed a remarkable journey over the past 30 years! We celebrate your past journey, the contributions that you share with our youth of today and the continuance of your future legacy!

*May you continue
to strive in Excellence!*

Umoja African Dance Class

Alexis Igoe
Avery Reid
Ayele Smith
Brendann Igoe
Eva Essel
Khai'im Smith
Lisa Love
Luisa Ohemeng
Morgan Graham
Nuriyah Long
Phoenix Moore
Renee Darko
Zion Briddle
and Miss Kai

Congratulations

KAREN L. LOVE

Thank You for giving me my first paying gig
and for all the incredible times we all had to-
gether.

From Anansi the Spider to Kwanzaa
to lots and lots of school performances.
You are such an inspiration!!

Congratulations on 30 years of dance excellence!

Jennifer Landa



Magnet Radio.com

Your most attractive, 1st class station available 24/7 days



Email us: Magnet-Radio.com@outlook.com

Follow us





Magnet-Radio.com is an exciting global station providing music, information, fun, and laughter. This is a different radio station that focuses simply on 1st class quality entertainment for the listeners wherever they are globally. The CEO realized there was a gap in radio stations around the content of their shows. Post 2020 following a boom in radio listeners the CEO realized what most listeners wanted was not only music but also advise, support and encouragement during a challenging time when listeners required encouragement, fun and laughter, quality music presented in a professional, relaxed manner. Magnet-Radio.com attracts its audience by encapsulating talent, speaking with the audience, creating laughter, and providing support/advice on a whole range of topics that affect the audiences lives.

Magnet-Radio.com has not forgotten their roots. It embraces all cultures whilst still appreciating and celebrating its Afro-Caribbean/US background through music. With strong links in the mountain areas of Jamaica Magnet-Radio.com has a sophisticated way of bringing together the symbolic mountains in Jamaica alongside the ability to climb and achieve anything at its highest and full potential. The radio station plays a wide genre of Afro-Caribbean music - from soul, rnb, jazz, Motown, gospel, reggae, afro beats, grime and hip-hop. Appealing to all age groups and socio-economic groups, this station attracts everyone internationally earning its title as the most attractive, 1st class, quality station.

CONGRATULATIONS KAREN LOVE AND THE UMOJA DANCE COMPANY FOR 30 YEARS OF DANCE EXCELLENCE

Book Us!



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Artists:
Yvonne Onque
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Salutes
UMOJA
DANCE COMPANY

&

It's creator

Karen Love

on their 30-year celebration

&

ongoing contribution to and sustenance
of our culture.

HARAMBEE!

UMOJA

DANCE COMPANY

3TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023
5:00PM CONCERT • 7:00PM RECEPTION

Montclair State University Memorial Auditorium
Normal & Valley Road, Montclair, NJ 07043

Ticket Information

\$50.00 Concert Only (general admission seating)

\$45.00 Senior Citizens & Students Concert Only (general admission seating)

\$125.00 Concert & Reception (Reserved seating)

**Reception tickets must be purchased by June 12th. Limited amount of tickets will be sold on the day of the show.*

Tickets can be purchased @ www.umojadance.com • Online tickets end June 23, 9:00pm

NOTE: Concert will begin at 5:00pm SHARP. PLEASE allow additional time for parking and walking to the theater. After you park in the parking garage you will have 5-10 min walk to the theater.

Vendors please contact: Kai Smith @ preparedforgoodlife@gmail.com



congratulations



**Karen Love & Umoja Dance Company
on 30 years of African tradition
and the diaspora**

**Thank you for your many
years of dedication in helping NJPAC
make an impact in our community.**

**We are grateful for your talents
and leadership as co-chair of our
Dance Advisory Committee.**

With deep gratitude,
Eyesha K. Marable
AVP of Community Engagement at NJPAC

new jersey performing arts center
njpac
One Center Street • Newark, NJ 07102